

### REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the continued detailed examination evidenced by the Final Official Action mailed October 6, 2005, (hereinafter "the Final Official Action") including the indicated allowability of Claim 3-15 and the allowance of Claims 16-28. In an effort to further narrow the issues for consideration of this submission and any subsequent Appeal, Applicants have amended the Application so that only Claims 1 and 2 remain in issue. In particular, the claims have been amended herein as follows:

1. Claim 29 has been canceled without prejudice to the filing of any further claims directed to the same subject matter.
2. Allowable Claims 3 and 13 have been amended to be independent form, therefore placing these claims and the claims which depend therefrom (Claims 4-12, 14 and 15) in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the present Amendment as narrowing the issues for consideration.

In the interest of brevity, Applicants' remarks herein focus on the recitation of **"separate read and write control signals provided thereto from outside the local row decoder circuit,"** as recited in independent Claim 1. However, in order to ensure that the present submission is fully responsive to the Final Official Action, Applicants hereby incorporate all of Applicants' previous responses herein by reference.

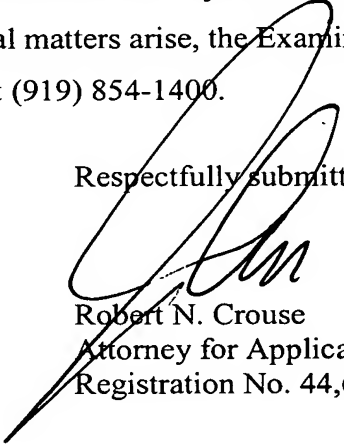
In the Final Official Action's *Response to Arguments* section (*see the Final Official Action, page 3*), the above highlighted recitation of independent Claim 1 is alleged to be disclosed by elements 291, 192, and 294 by Figure 3 of Tedrow. However, as shown in Figure 3 of Tedrow, element 291 is labeled as "read row **address** signals" (emphasis added). Accordingly, element 291 is an address, not a **control** signal as claimed. Furthermore, element 294 in Figure 3 of Tedrow is labeled as "write block **address** signals" (emphasis added). Accordingly, element 294 of Figure 3 in Tedrow is an address, not a **control** signal as claimed. Still further, Applicants are still unable to locate element 192 in either the specification or the figures of Tedrow. Upon further inspection of Figure 3, however, Applicants believe that the Final Official Action may actually be referring to element 292, which is labeled as "write row **address** signals" (emphasis added). If this is the case,

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Applicants respectfully point out that element 292 also is an **address** signal, not a **control** signal as claimed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that pending Claims 1-2 are patentable for at least the reasons described above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of all rejections and the allowance of all claims in due course. If any informal matters arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone at (919) 854-1400.

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Respectfully submitted,



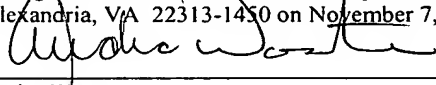
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